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NOTES AND COMMENT

PROPOSED ROOSEVELT-SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

One of the most important pieces of National Park legislation now before Congress is the Barbour bill, H. R. 7452, by which it is proposed to create, from lands which are now partly in a National Park, but more largely in a National Forest, the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park. The boundaries of the proposed park are the result of an agreement between the National Parks Service and the Forest Service. It has been clearly recognized that once an area is made into a National Park it must be kept strictly as such, and the commercial use of whatever resources it contains abandoned. On the other hand the park features must be national in character and sufficient to justify foregoing the resources.

There will be added to the already existing Sequoia National Park 961 square miles of land now in a National Forest, and there will be returned to the National Forest 105 square miles. This represents a large increase in park values. The 105 square miles eliminated contain no scenic features of national importance aside from the redwood groves. There has been some fear that these groves might be cut. Fortunately they will continue under public control, and be protected as effectively as in the past. The Forest Service has always safeguarded points of unusual interest in the National Forests, and is committed to the protection of these trees as being of far more value to the public as monuments of nature's handiwork than as sawn lumber. Of these 105 square miles, between 65 and 75 are open meadows and hillsides not grown with large trees. This area is of much value for grazing, and has been eliminated from the proposed park for that purpose.

The area to be added to the National Park under the Barbour bill contains, besides the superb Tehipite and Kings River Canyons, Mount Whitney and other magnificent peaks, *more publicly owned redwood trees exceeding ten feet in diameter than the area returned to National Forest.* The present Sequoia National Park contains 1,214 such trees, the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park will contain 1,304, or a net gain of 90 trees, besides those outside the boundaries which will still be protected. Aside from the redwoods, the 961 square miles contain three or four times as much of the main forest belt, at from 4,000 to 9,000 feet elevation, as the area eliminated.

The Barbour bill, since its amendment to exclude water power from the proposed park, has received the active support of the National Parks Committee, on which the Ecological Society, the National Parks Association, and twenty-four other organizations in National Parks are represented.

A MENACE TO THE NATIONAL PARKS.

On July 6 the United States Senate passed, in the rush of other business, a bill, S. 3159, defining the rights of the Mescalero Apache Indians in their reservation. Woven into this bill were provisions for making into a National Park, to be known as the "All Year National Park," an indefinite number of small isolated spots within the reservation, and three more isolated spots outside. There is no claim that these spots are scenically, or for any other reason, of such *national* character as would justify making them into a National Park. In fact Senator Bursum of New Mexico stated on the floor of the Senate that the bill "is purely local in character and affects only New Mexico." The bill provides that the new "National Park" would be subject to water power, irrigation, grazing, and mining. Thus it not only ignores the essential qualifica-